



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger  
Secretary

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### Environmental News

#### DEQ Moves to Pass/Fail Mode for Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

(Baton Rouge)-- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will begin the final phase of the federally mandated vehicle inspection/maintenance (I/M) program on October 7, 2003 with pass/fail mode of testing using on-board diagnostics (OBD). OBD testing consists of computer checks of emission control systems on vehicles. Approximately half of the registered vehicles in the five-parish area are equipped with on-board diagnostics technology and are subject to OBD testing (1996 and newer light duty cars and trucks). Model year vehicles 1980 through 1995 will continue to receive visual anti-tampering checks and fuel cap pressure tests. All vehicles will still receive a safety inspection.

Prior to presenting a vehicle for inspection, an owner should take precautionary measures to ensure the vehicle is operating properly. Vehicles that fail the OBD test will be issued an orange rejection sticker. Within 30 days the vehicle must be repaired and presented for reinspection. State and local law enforcement officials are responsible for windshield sticker enforcement of the I/M program. Owners of vehicles failing the OBD test will have the option to double-check the results by bringing the vehicle to the challenge station located at Louisiana Technical College, Port Allen Campus for a free retest to confirm the failure. Currently, the failure rate on vehicles tested in established programs in other states is 5-8%.

The I/M program is a mobile emissions control program that ozone nonattainment areas, such as the five-parish area of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge are required by federal law to implement. Motor vehicles emitting ozone-forming pollutants contribute to the continuing ozone problem in the Baton Rouge area. Failure to fully implement this program would result in sanctions on industrial expansion and federal highway funds for the five-parish area.

Secretary L. Hall Bohlinger, stated, "This program is the result of representatives from our state legislature, congressional delegation and local government that met and negotiated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the least intrusive, least costly and most efficient I/M program possible for the citizens of the five-parish area."

For additional information about the I/M program and OBD visit [www.deq.state.la.us/planning/mvimp/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.la.us/planning/mvimp/index.htm) or contact Ms. Teri Lanoue, I/M Program Manager at 225-219-3556.